

Group II -- claims 10-17 directed to a second method for preparing a natural rubber latex;

Group III -- claims 18-21 directed to a natural rubber; and

Group IV -- claims 22-25 directed to a natural rubber.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group III, claims 18-21.

The above-noted Restriction Requirement is respectfully traversed. It is submitted that the subject matter of the presently withdrawn product claims of Group IV (i.e. claims 22-25) significantly overlaps with that of the elected subject matter of the claims of Group III. It is additionally submitted that the preparation methods recited in the claims of presently withdrawn Groups I and II (i.e. claims 1-17) also significantly overlap with that of the elected subject matter of the claims of Group III. In view of the overlapping subject matter, it is submitted that there is no significant burden placed on the Examiner to examine all of the claims of the present application such that the Requirement should be withdrawn.

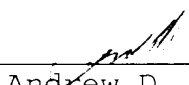
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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